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BILLES DON

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

for the

YEAR ENDED

31st. DECEMBER, 1953.

together with a report

of the

SURVEYOR AND SANITARY INSPECTOR.

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BILLESDON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE
YEAR ENDED 31st. DECEMBER, 1953.

TO: THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
BILLESDON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr.Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I present to you my Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the Billesdon Rural District for the year 1953.

Again I am glad to be able to report that the health of the Rural District has been good. The death rate is low, 8.9 per 1,000 as against 11.4 for the whole Country. I am gratified to record that both infantile mortality and the maternal death rate have been 'NIL'. The low incidence of notifiable disease, with the exception of Scarlet Fever, Measles and Whooping Cough, is also very welcome. The cases of Scarlet Fever notified have all been of a mild type.

It is a pleasure to be able to report that there were no cases of Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis notified during 1953, and I can record with pride that no cases of diphtheria occurred during the year, which is a tribute to the past efforts against this disease.

The last place one would associate with food poisoning is a hospital kitchen, yet 26 cases from this source were notified, and this strengthens the demand for the most adequate and stringent supervision of all people handling food at all stages in its preparation and sale.

It is encouraging that the Ministry of Health has advised Hospital Boards to consult with the Medical Officer of Health and the Sanitary Inspector on matters of food hygiene and handling. In this respect, the Ministry is indeed wise, for the Medical Officer and Sanitary Inspector have the experience in this aspect on important health work, which is as truly preventive "medicine" as vaccination and diphtheria inoculations.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

There has been no change in the arrangements during 1953 whereby the Public Health Laboratory Service at Groby Road, Leicester undertakes the bacteriological examination of specimens submitted.

In addition to the milk and water examinations reported separately, the following examinations were carried out during 1953 :

Faeces.	...	17.
Urine.	...	1.
Throat Swab....		6.
Nose Swab.	...	19.
Vomit.	...	9.
Cut on hand....		19.
Potato Pie.	...	1.
Dripping.	...	1.
Bacon.	...	1.
Corn Flakes....		1.

Ambulance Facilities; Nursing in the Home; Maternity and Child Welfare; Child Life Protection; School Health Services.

The Leicester County Council is the responsible authority for the administration of these Services.

National Assistance Act 1948, Sec. 47.

Elsewhere, in the Sanitary Inspector's report, you will see that 6 visits have been made in connection with the removal of aged and infirm persons.

These visits relate to one old lady at Thurnby and every effort was made to secure her confidence and persuade her to go to hospital voluntarily.

This she eventually declined to do, and as the conditions did not warrant an approach to the Justices with a view to removal, the case will be kept under observation.

BIRTH RATE, DEATH RATE AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY for 1953.

	Rate per 1,000 of Population.		Annual Death Rate per 1,000 Population.							Rate per 1,000 live births.	
	Live Births.	Still Births.	All causes.	Typhoid and Para- typhoid Fevers.	Smallpox.	Whooping Cough.	Diphtheria.	Influenza.	Diarrhoea and Enteritis under two years.	Total deaths under one year.	
England and Wales.	15.5	0.35	11.4	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.16	1.1	26.8	
160 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London.	17.0	0.43	12.2	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.15	1.3	30.8	
160 smaller Towns (resident population 25 to 50,000.)	15.7	0.34	11.3	--	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.17	0.9	24.3	
London.	17.5.	0.38	12.5	--	--	0.00	--	0.15	1.1	24.8	
Billesdon Rural District.	15.6	0.8	8.98	--	--	--	--	0.12.	--	--	

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres ).	....	49,728.	Rateable Value.	£37,150.
Registrar General's Estimate of Population (Mid. 1953)		7,862.	Sum represented by a penny rate.	£144.
Number of Inhabited Houses.		2,554.		

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS
OF THE
BILLESDON RURAL DISTRICT.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH. J. Young. M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.Camb.,

The Medical Officer of Health acts for the
Leicestershire and Rutland Combined Districts
in which this District is included.

SURVEYOR AND SANITARY INSPECTOR.

(1) A.E.Sweeting, Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and
Sanitary Inspectors Examination Joint Board.
Associate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.
Member of the Sanitary Inspectors Association.
until March 31st. 1953.

(2) John W.Stephenson, B.E.M. A.A.B.S.S., A.F.S.(Eng.), M.R.San.I.,
M.S.I.A., Cert. S.I.B.
Certificated Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.
Architectural and Building Surveyor.
Incorporated Surveyor.

commenced duties 4th. May, 1953.
(Previously Deputy Senior Sanitary Inspector
and Surveyor, Hollingbourn R.D.C., Kent.)

Clerk.

Mrs. M. Allen.

WATER SUPPLIES.

The more populous parishes in the District enjoy a supply from public mains, but the ever present problem of economics precludes the rapid extension of a mains supply to the many smaller villages.

Water is purchased in bulk from the Leicester Corporation for the villages of Cold Newton, Lowesby, Marefield, Skeffington, Tilton and Tugby, and I understand that the future supply position is such that the Corporation are reluctant to commit themselves further.

However, they have agreed to furnish a supply to Illston-on-the-Hill and Hungarton and schemes are being prepared.

With a number of other authorities, the Council has entered into the River Dove Scheme, but the supply from this source is not expected to be available before the 1960's.

SCAVENGING.

The Sanitary Inspector's report gives some interesting details of the refuse collection service, which is excellent for such a widely scattered rural area.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Throughout the year, Contractors have been busy laying sewers in Houghton-on-the-Hill and improved sanitary conditions will rapidly follow completion of the sewage works.

By the end of 1954, it is anticipated that Burton Overy, Great Glen, Scraftoft, Thurnby, Skeffington and Houghton will all be enjoying modern sewerage and disposal systems. That all of these schemes have been undertaken since the War is of great credit to the Billesdon Council and I look forward to the schemes for Billesdon, Tilton and Keyham being realised just as quickly.

CESSPOOLS.

The free cesspool emptying service operated by this authority may be almost unique for such a rural area.

Each cesspool regularly emptied by the Council's vehicles was cleansed on an average 7.77 times in 1953, and some two million gallons of filth were removed from the immediate vicinity of dwellings and disposed of.

This is in addition to the regular weekly emptying of 736 pail closets.

STREAMS AND DITCHES.

Many of the streams and ditches in the district are seriously polluted, and the provision of main drainage mentioned above has already resulted in some improvement.

This problem is bound up with the problem of cesspools, old village sewers and sewer ditches draining into watercourses, and is thus intimately connected with the need for adequate water supply and for main drainage and efficient sewage disposal.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA, 1953.

The following is a return of children resident in the Rural District who were immunised against Diphtheria during the year ended 31.12.53.

Year of Birth.	Primary Inoculations.	Reinforcing Inoculations.
1953.	4.	-
1952.	43.	-
1951.	8.	-
1950.	1.	-
1949.	1.	2.
1948.	3.	27.
1947.	1.	13.
1946.	-	1.
1945.	-	3.
1944.	-	-
1943.	-	-
1942.	-	-
1941.	-	1.
1940.	-	-
1939.	-	-
Totals.	61.	47.
Comparable figures for 1952	92.	53.

The following is a return of the number of children resident in the Rural District of Billesdon under the age of 15 years on 31st. December, 1953, who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date (i.e. at any time since 1st. January, 1939.)

<u>Year of Birth.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
1939.	74.
1940.	69.
1941.	58.
1942.	70.
1943.	98.
1944.	115.
1945.	26.
1946.	92.
1947.	101.
1948.	105.
1949.	67.
1950.	85.
1951.	82.
1952.	47.
1953.	4.
Total	1093.

Diphtheria notifications and deaths in 1953 in relation to immunisation:

<u>NOTIFICATIONS.</u>	<u>DEATHS.</u>
Nil.	Nil.

The incidence of Diphtheria in the Country as a whole continues to fall and the number of nation wide notifications has fallen from 23,199 in 1944 to 240 in 1953.

However, as the incidence of the disease has fallen, so has the number of children who are immunised.

This is disturbing as the elimination of the disease is conditional upon the maintenance of an adequate level of immunisation. Parents must be made to realise that if they leave their children unprotected there may be a return of Diphtheria outbreaks.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Disease.	Total of Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Smallpox.	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever.	23.	-	-
Diphtheria.	-	-	-
Pneumonia.	4.	-	-
Measles.	122.	2.	-
Whooping Cough.	22.	-	-
Erysipelas.	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia.	-	-	-
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis.	-	-	-
Food Poisoning.	26.	Inmates of	-
Dysentery.	1.	Hospital.	-
TOTALS.	198.	2.	-

ANALYSIS OF CASES OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.

Disease.	under 1.	1-2	3-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25-45	45-65	65 & over.	Total.
Smallpox.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Scarlet Fever.	1	1	5.	15.	3.	1	1	1	1	23.
Diphtheria.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Pneumonia.	1.	1	1	1	1	1.	1	1.	1.	4.
Measles.	3.	13.	29.	70.	3.	2.	2.	1	1	122.
Whooping Cough.	1.	3.	4.	11.	3.	1	1	1	1	22.
Erysipelas.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Puerperal Pyrexia.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Food Poisoning.	1	1	1	5.	7.	2.	9.	2.	1.	26.
Dysentery.	1	1.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1.
TOTALS.	5.	17.	38.	101.	16.	5.	11.	3.	2.	198.

Below is an analysis of the deaths from malignant diseases according to age groups. No information is available as to the incidence of cancer in any particular occupation:

Deaths from Cancer, 1953.

AGE GROUP.	Male.	Female.
0.		
1.		
5.		
15.		
25.	1.	
35.		
45.		1.
55.	1.	
65 and over.	2.	6.
Totals.	4.	7.

Prevention of Blindness.

No notifications of Ophthalmia Neonatorum were received during 1953.

TUBERCULOSIS.

No action was taken in 1953 under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925 or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Overleaf is a table of the new cases of tuberculosis reported during the year and the mortality from this disease.

AGE GROUPS.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1.	-	-	-	2.	-	-	-	-
5.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.	-
15.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20.	-	1.	-	-	-	-	-	-
25.	-	2.	-	-	-	1.	-	-
35.	-	1.	-	-	1.	-	-	-
45.	2.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and upwards.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals.	2.	4.	-	2.	1.	1.	1.	-

The number of deaths from all forms of Tuberculosis which had been notified was 3.

The closest co-operation exists between your staff and the staff of the County Council. Following notification of a new case of Tuberculosis the Sanitary Inspector calls in order to ascertain whether the sanitary condition of the house has a detrimental effect upon the patient.

When raw milk is consumed, arrangements are made for it to be sampled and tested for the presence of tubercule bacilli.

I have the honour to be,

Your Obedient Servant,

JOHN YOUNG.

Medical Officer of Health.

REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR AND SANITARY INSPECTOR.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my first Annual Report in conjunction with that of the Medical Officer of Health.

The first quarter of the year is, of course, based upon the work of my predecessor, Mr. A. E. Sweeting. From a perusal of the report of Dr. Young, it will be seen that the health of the District as a whole continues to be good and compares favourably ~~with the remainder of the Country.~~

The easing of the building restrictions has given a great new impetus to the building industry and well over 300,000 houses have been erected in the Country during this year. Of this number 42 were erected by the Council and 68 by private enterprise, a total of 110 for the Billesdon Rural District. In addition, 24 Council Houses and 67 private houses were under construction at the end of the year.

Since the end of the War, the Council has completed 212 houses, private enterprise 194 and I am expecting that in 1954 this latter figure will be doubled.

The table following details the number of planning applications which have been dealt with by my Department during the year. No account has been taken of the many resubmissions of amended plans in connection with the larger developments proposed.

PARISH.	Number Received.	Number Withdrawn.	Refused.	Appeals.	Permitted.	No. of Bldgs. Involved.	Number Received.	Number Withdrawn.	Refused.	Permitted.	Appeals.
Allextton.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Billesdon.	9	-	-	-	9	10	-	-	-	-	-
Burton Overy.	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
Carlton Curlieu.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cold Newton.	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
East Norton.	2	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-
Frisby.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Galby.	2	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-
Goadby.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Glen.	17	-	1	-	16	34	2	-	-	2	-
Great Stretton.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Houghton-on-the-Hill.	9	-	-	-	9	8	1	-	-	1	-
Hungarton.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ilston.	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Keyham.	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
King's Norton.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Launde.	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Little Stretton.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Loddington.	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
Lowesby.	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Marefield.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Noseley.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Owston.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rolleston.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scraptoft.	37	1	-	1	36	648	2	-	1	1	-
Skeffington.	3	-	-	-	3	3	1	-	-	1	-
Stoughton.	2	-	-	-	2	2	1	-	1	-	-
Thurnby & Bushby.	15	-	-	-	15	125	3	-	-	3	-
Tilton.	8	-	-	-	8	6	1	-	-	1	-
Tugby.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
Whatborough.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wistow.	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
Withcote.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	112	1	1	1	109	842	12	1	2	9	-

Three advertisement applications were considered, two being allowed and the other refused.

The following is a summary of the plans deposited in accordance with the Building Byelaws:

Parish.	No. of Plans Deposited.	No. Refused.	No. Appvd.	No. of Bldgs. Involved.
Allextton.	-	-	-	-
Billesdon.	7	-	7	9
Burton Overy.	5	-	5	5
Carlton Curlieu.	-	-	-	-
Cold Newton.	2	-	2	2
East Norton.	1	-	1	-
Frisby.	-	-	-	-
Galby.	2	-	2	2
Goadby.	-	-	-	-
Great Glen.	20	-	20	42
Great Stretton.	-	-	-	-
Houghton-on-the-Hill.	22	-	22	23
Hungarton.	-	-	-	-
Ilston.	3	-	3	3
Keyham.	-	-	-	-
King's Norton.	1	-	1	1
Launde.	1	-	1	-
Little Stretton.	1	-	1	1
Loddington.	3	-	3	3
Lowesby.	2	-	2	2
Marefield.	-	-	-	-
Noseley.	-	-	-	-
Owston.	1	-	1	1
Rolleston.	-	-	-	-
Scraptoft.	52	-	52	584
Skeffington.	4	-	4	4
Stoughton.	3	-	3	3
Thurnby & Bushby.	26	1	25	162
Tilton.	7	-	7	9
Tugby.	-	-	-	-
Whatborough.	-	-	-	-
Wistow.	1	-	1	1
Withcote.	-	-	-	-
Totals.	164	1	163	857

These applications have referred to:

New houses...	...	...	775
Additions and alterations	24
Other buildings....	66
Use of land or buildings	20
Total			<u>885</u>

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It is interesting to note that only one plan was refused, but this does not present a true picture of the standard of plans received. Almost half of the number of plans deposited are defective to some degree and it has been my practice to communicate with the Architect and point out the contraventions, which have, with one exception, been remedied before being placed before the Committee.

Building Byelaws are not made for the sole purpose of giving the Council's Surveyor something to do, they are contrived to ensure a safe and healthy building in which to live and work. Your new byelaws, which came into force in November, 1953, give an obvious example of this. Anyone putting in a new or replacement fireplace in an existing house, is required to give the Council notice and to supply certain particulars in order that the hearth construction may be checked. A published national figure gives defective hearth construction and combustible material in proximity of hearths as the cause of 16% of fires in private houses and flats.

Your new byelaws are more flexible than those administered in the past and make provision for the acceptance of new materials and methods, if the standard of insulation, strength, resistance to weather and workmanship are achieved.

It is still too early to say how this will work out in practice, but one thing is certain, those responsible for the administration of building byelaws, have greater technical responsibility thrust upon them and must investigate most carefully every new material or method which comes on to the market.

SECTION C.

WATER.

During the year, main water was extended to the parishes of Marefield and Tugby and connections are now taking place.

The heavier demand has severely taxed the booster pump at Billesdon and the Tilton storage tank is now inadequate, areas of Tilton and Lowesby being without water for long periods during peak demand upon the main.

It was felt necessary, therefore, to recommend that a new pump be provided in order to meet the increased demand and that a larger storage tank be installed at Tilton. This pump will be fitted in the early part of 1954 and it is anticipated that the new storage tank will be in use before the end of 1954.

Complaints were received concerning the peculiar oily appearance of the local village supply at Ilston-on-the-Hill, and analysis did reveal that this appearance was not caused by an escape of oil into the well, but by the particular chemical composition of the water giving this appearance when it came into contact with the air.

However, bacteriologically this supply is unsafe and the possibility of extending the main from Galby is being explored.

The necessity for a supply of main water at Hungarton has also been reviewed and three alternative routes have been considered, i.e. from Cold Newton, from Keyham and from Ingarsby Lane, Houghton-on-the-Hill. From the engineering point of view, it is accepted that the route from Ingarsby Lane is the most practical, having in mind the ultimate route of the Dove Scheme main. At the same time, there is an urgent agricultural need between Cold Newton and Baggrave.

The Uppingham R.D.C. has indicated a desire to take an interim supply from a private borehole just inside your district in order to supply Belton, and after examination of the possibilities, it was decided not to raise objections if a sufficient supply of water is made available from this borehole to supply the small village of Allextion.

WATER SHORTAGE.

It continues to be necessary to carry water periodically to the two Swedish Houses at Hungarton and this was done on 6 occasions during the year.

A spring in close proximity to the ironstone workings at Halstead and which supplied a farm, some cottages and a Public House, became insufficient and it was agreed to afford a supply of main water into the system as a temporary measure, the owner giving an undertaking not to hold the Council responsible for any circumstance following the mixing of main with spring water.

SAMPLES.

A total of 2 samples were submitted for examination with the following results :

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION.

Type of Water,	No. of Samples.	Results.	
		Unsatisfactory.	Satisfactory.
Main.	-	-	-
Raw.	1.	1.	-

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS.

Type of Water.	No. of Samples.	Results.	
		Unsatisfactory.	Satisfactory.
Main.	-	-	-
Raw.	1.	1.	-

It has not been necessary to take any action in regard to waters liable to plumbo solvent action.

The following table indicates particulars of water supply in relation to households. Unfortunately, I cannot claim that it is absolutely accurate and adjustments will be made from time to time.

Internal Mains Water Supply.		Mains water from external standpipes.		Supplies from Springs, wells, etc.	
No. of Dwellings.	Population. (approx.)	No. of Dwellings.	Population. (approx.)	No. of Dwellings.	Population. (approx.)
1860.	6394.	20.	35.	732.	1651.

In 33 instances main water was substituted for well water.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Minor troubles at Great Glen Pumping Station and Sewage Works were overcome following the fitting of new floats to the automatic apparatus and a re-adjustment of the maintenance procedure. In this respect, however, a labour problem has been very apparent and for some weeks I was without a Works attendant. Any available labour was pressed into service and at the end of the year a most satisfactory effluent was being passed into the stream.

Skeffington works and the plant serving the Tilton Council Houses have been receiving attention on at least two days each week and a satisfactory effluent is now apparent.

The greater portion of sewers and works are now completed in Houghton-on-the-Hill, and very shortly the works will be able to receive sewage for treatment. The old sewer has given considerable trouble during the year and when this scheme is completed it will be a great relief to my many day to day worries. Following upon the policy of previous years, a grant of 50% of the cost, or £10, whichever is the least, is to be made in respect of all closet conversions voluntarily undertaken in this village before the end of 1954.

Heavy demand upon the cesspool emptying service severely restricted the amount of attention which was given to the various village tanks and sewer ditches. Sixteen stoppages or bursts occurred in the old village sewers, and it has almost always been necessary to withdraw men from other duties in order to put matters right.

A vigorous approach to the Ministry ultimately gained permission to proceed with the scheme for sewerage Scraftoft, Thurnby and Bushby and the works were in hand at the closing of the year. The Stoughton scheme also received Ministry sanction, but the work has not yet commenced, on account of protracted negotiations with the Co-operative Wholesale Society.

The sewerage of Billesdon and Tilton is now a most urgent matter and it is to be hoped that in 1954 the Ministry will see fit to allow these schemes to go forward.

Of the post-war schemes now on paper, there remains Keyham, where two old village sewers discharge into a ditch and thence to the brook.

Conservancy.

No. of privies in the district ...	...	...	...	4.
No. of pail closets in the district ...	...	...	...	736.
No. of W.C.'s in the district ...	...	...	...	1717

No. of closets converted to W.C.'s during the year	...	4.
No. of cesspools constructed during the year	...	10.
No. of cesspools abolished during the year ...	...	50.
No. of cesspools in the district	...	475.

Pail closets are emptied weekly and cesspools as regularly as possible with a six-weekly service as the target. Sickness and absence of workmen, coupled with breakdowns with the two cesspool emptying vehicles have had a disastrous effect upon the programme during 1953, particularly as it has been increasingly difficult to find a disposal point within a short distance of the largest concentration of cesspools.

REFUSE DISPOSAL.

Dustbins are emptied weekly throughout the whole of the district, refuse being taken to the Burton Overy Tip, which is frequently on fire and because of the deep tipping face, difficult to control.

An alternative at Skeffington which would form an ideal tip has been considered and it is hoped that a meeting arranged with the Parish Meeting early in the new year will overcome any local objections to my proposals.

There is ample evidence that more refuse is being placed in the bins with a consequent slowing of the collection rate, and in addition, there is the mushroom-like growth of new houses which must be afforded a service.

Very little can now be earned by salvaging waste paper and with the stores full, quite naturally the merchants will only purchase the higher quality waste.

The vexed problem of who should supply the dustbin, owner or occupier, has received the attention of Parliament. In the Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1953, it is provided that if the owner or occupier appeals against the Council's decision to require him to provide a dustbin, he may serve a copy on the other, and the Court may decide upon responsibility, having in mind as between an owner and an occupier, to the terms and conditions whether contractual or statutory of the tenancy of the premises concerned.

It still remains a ponderous and expensive procedure to secure the provision of a modest dustbin.

VEHICLES AND MAINTENANCE.

During the year, two new vehicles were purchased, a Ford five cwt. van for the use of the Foreman and a Ford ten cwt. van for use in connection with the maintenance of sewage works. These vehicles replaced a Morris Truck and Standard van which were completely worn out. The two cesspool emptying vehicles continue to be garaged at Houghton-on-the-Hill and one refuse vehicle is also under cover at Thurnby. Unfortunately, no garage is available for the large refuse vehicle. The condemned truck and van had also been standing in the open, but when the new vans were delivered, I was able to get them under cover by removing a portion of the floor of an outbuilding at Thurnby.

I am dependent upon local garages for repairs and am grateful to the garage proprietors who, as far as possible, have undertaken repairs in the evening and during weekends in order that the vehicles may spend as many hours as possible on the job. It is only this arrangement which has prevented the cleansing service from collapsing, particularly as it is now stretched to the limit of its capacity. In view of the impetus of building and the Council's forceful policy with regard to the provision of sewerage schemes in the more densely populated areas, a complete re-organisation of the Cleansing Service will be necessary within the next eighteen months.

NUMBER OF INSPECTIONS MADE DURING THE YEAR.

page 20.

Assistance Act.	6
Water Sampling.	3
Drainage.	39
Water Supply.	136
Sewage Disposal.	126
Refuse Disposal.	17
Stables and Piggeries.	2
Animals kept as to be a nuisance.	-
Moveable dwellings.	29
Factories - with power.	15
Factories - non-power.	67
Workplaces.	-
Shops Act.	5
Rodent Control.	103
Hairdressers.	-
Petroleum Stores.	1
Building Byelaws.	661
Streams and Brooks.	10
Thurnby Camp.	20
Rights of Way.	3
Miscellaneous.	109
<u>HOUSING.</u>	
Initial Inspections. Public Health Act.	22
Revisits.	35
Initial Inspections. Housing Act.	11
Revisits.	10
Initial Inspections - Filthy & verminous Premises.	1
Revisits. - " " " "	1
Visits - Council Cottages.	220
Miscellaneous.	7
<u>INFECTIOUS DISEASE.</u>	
Visits for Disinfection.	-
Other visits.	5
<u>FOOD PREMISES.</u>	
Slaughter Houses.	2
Butchers.	2
Fishmongers.	-
Bakehouses.	1
Dairies.	1
Visits to collect milk samples.	-
Restaurants and Cafes.	1
Ice Cream Premises.	-
Licensed Premises.	2
Other Food Premises.	-
Grocers and Confectioners.	2
Hospital Kitchens.	2
Miscellaneous.	--

Total 1,677

SANITARY STATISTICS.GENERAL SANITATION AND HOUSING DEFECTS.

New drains provided or drains reconstructed.	6
House drains cleansed or repaired.	-
Houses provided with new water closets.	4
Water Closets Repaired.	-
Water closets provided with flushing apparatus.	-
New sinks with trapped wastes provided.	2.
New trapped wastes fitted to sinks.	2.
New gullies provided for sinks.	-
Cesspools and privy pits cleansed or repaired.	3700.
Privies abolished.	-
Pails renewed.	-
Offensive accumulations removed.	-
Ponds and water courses cleansed.	-
Filthy premises cleansed.	1.
Vermineous premises disinfested.	2.
Dampness remedied.	2.
Roofs repaired.	-
Gutters and rainwater pipes repaired.	1.
Floors and staircases repaired.	-
Walls and ceilings repaired.	1.
Windows and doors repaired.	-
Yards paved.	-
Grates and ranges repaired or renewed.	-
Sash lines repaired.	-

WATER SUPPLIES.

Houses connected to main 1953.	33.
Rainwater tanks examined.	2.
Rainwater tanks repaired or cleansed.	-
Wells examined.	5.
Wells repaired or cleansed.	1.

BAKEHOUSES.

Premises cleansed and limewashed.	-
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SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

Premises cleansed and limewashed.	3.
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INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notifications received.	206.
Visits made by Sanitary Inspector.	5.
Number of rooms disinfected.	7.
Number of vehicles disinfected.	-
Patients removed to Isolation Hospital (By Sanitary Inspector)	-

NOTICES.

Number of informal notices served.	...	...	106.
Number of informal notices complied with....	...	...	103.
Number of Statutory Notices served.	...	...	3.
+ Number of Statutory Notices complied with...	...	...	3.
+ Regarding this item, three notices were served upon the owner of a cottage requiring main water to be taken into the house, the provision of a pail closet and repairs to remedy dampness. Rather than undertake this work, the owner sold the cottage to a builder who has received the consent of this Council to convert the dwelling into a workshop.			

SHOPS ACT.

Very little work in this section was possible during the year and it was not necessary to take action to remedy defects.

FACTORIES ACTS. 1937 and 1948.PART I OF THE ACT.

1. Inspections made by Sanitary Inspector for the purposes of provisions as to health:

Premises.	Number on Register.	Number of		
		Inspections.	Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted.
1. Factories in which sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by local authorities.	22.	15.	-	-
11. Factories not included in (1) in which Sec.7. is enforced by local authority.	17.	-	-	-
111. Other premises in which Sec.7 is enforced by local authority (excluding out-workers premises.)	26.	52.	-	-
Totals.	65.	67.	-	-

2. Cases in which defects were found:

Particulars.	Number of cases in which defects were found.				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred To H.M. Inspector.	By H.M.	
Want of cleanliness.	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding.	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature.	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation.	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage.	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences:					
(a) Insufficient.	1.	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective.	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes.	1.	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act.	-	-	-	-	-
Totals.	2.	-	-	-	-

3. Outwork.

Nature of Work.	No. of outworkers in August list required by Section 110 (1) (c)
Wearing Apparel (making etc.)	8
Total.	8.

ERADICATION OF PESTS.

Very little organised survey work has been possible under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949 but treatments have been carried out whenever the refuse tip, sewage dykes or sewers gave any evidence of infestation.

In all some 760 properties were surveyed and 20 infestations treated by your rodent operator.

It was necessary to assist two householders in ridding their houses of fleas. As in previous years, this work is undertaken by your Cleansing Foreman, using an insecticide containing a mixture of pyrethrum and D.D.T. in a Kerosene base.

One of these infestations affected a Council House at Billesdon. No property was found to be infested with bugs.

CAMPING SITES AND MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

No licences for camping sites were issued during the year.

A number of applications were however received from individuals to station and use caravans within the district, as follows:

Number of applications received...	...	9.
Number of licences issued ... ..	...	6.
Number of applications withdrawn..	...	1.
Number of applications refused....	...	2.
Number of appeals to Justices ....	...	-
Number of prosecutions for using a caravan without a licence ... ..	...	-

Although there is evidence in various parts of the Country that there is still a steady demand for this type of temporary accommodation, no problem is present in your area.

In order to indicate to each individual applicant that the site and caravan must be maintained in a sanitary condition, the following standard conditions have been adopted and are attached to each licence issued :

- (a) That this licence shall expire on
- (b) That a satisfactory and wholesome supply of water shall be provided, sufficient for the domestic needs of the occupant.
- (c) That adequate provision shall be made for the disposal of human waste and waste water, to the satisfaction of the Council's Sanitary Inspector.
- (d) That a galvanised iron dustbin, complete with cover, shall be provided and placed in an easily accessible position.
- (e) That the caravan is maintained in a clean and weatherproof condition.
- (f) That the site is maintained in a clean and orderly state and no nuisance or conditions which are prejudicial to health shall be created by the occupants either on the site or on the adjoining land.
- (g) That the moveable dwelling herein licensed shall not be stationed within fifteen feet of any other dwelling.

The number of caravans licensed in your district, by parishes, is shown by the following table :

	<u>PARISH.</u>	<u>NO. OF CARAVANS.</u>
Grea	Great Glen.	2.
	Burton Overy.	2.
	Billesdon.	2.
	Newton Harcourt.	1.
	Thurnby.	1.
	Scraptoft.	2.
	Little Stretton.	1.

In addition, there have been several instances of caravans occupied by nomads stationed temporarily within the district.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

One freshwater swimming pool is available in the district.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No action has been necessary during the year.

The improvement of housing conditions is now a national policy of the first importance but unfortunately, because of the pressure of day to day administrative problems, very little routine inspection for sanitary defects has been possible.

However, three demolition orders were made and it is anticipated that early in the new year, another family will be rehoused by the Council and the appropriate action will be taken to ensure that the vacated house is not again occupied.

In addition to the demolition orders served, one owner gave an undertaking not to re-let an undesirable cottage, and this eventually became used as a store.

The following is information regarding housing in the rural district in the form asked for by the Ministry :-

INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR :-

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	33.
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	78.
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932... ..	Nil.
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	Nil.
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation....	5.
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation... ..	25.

REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES :-

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers.	5.
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ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR :-

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs... ..	Nil.
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :-	
(a) by owners	Nil.
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners.....	Nil.

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

- (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied... 3.
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :- 1.
 - (a) by owners 1.
 - (b) by Local Authority in default of owners. Nil.

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:

- (1) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... 3.
- (2) No. of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 3.

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

- (1) No. of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made Nil.

HOUSING ACT, 1936 - PART IV - OVERCROWDING :-

- (a) {
 - (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year..
 - (2) Number of families dwelling therein
 - (3) Number of persons dwelling therein
 } No up to date records are available.
- (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year.. Nil.
- (c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year.. 2.
- (2) Number of persons concerned in such cases 8.
- (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding :

None have come to notice.

HUTTED CAMPS.

Much time has been taken up during the year in dealing with various matters affecting Thurnby Camp. Immediately any hut has become vacant, efforts have been made to sell to the highest bidder and various scrap materials have also been sold in an endeavour to tidy up the site.

Only five huts now remain occupied and individual electricity meters have been supplied to each family.

These huts are in a defective condition and are deteriorating rapidly. In addition, electric wiring and the water supply are continually requiring repair.

Notice that one pig was to be slaughtered was received and found to be free from disease.

WEIGHT OF FOOD CONDEMNED DURING THE YEAR.

Meat ...	...	...	Nil.
Other Food ...	...	...	Nil.

No routine examinations of food shops have been carried out and on only one occasion has a butcher called me for advice regarding the fitness of food for human consumption. Food traders must be assured that although a statutory officer, I am always ready and willing to give an opinion on the fitness of any food they may receive at their premises.

MILK AND DAIRIES.

The number of Dairymen registered on 31st. December, 1953 is as follows:-

Dairies Registered	...	...	...	-
Distributors Registered	...	...	...	3.
No. of producer-retailers in district	. 32.			

Dealers Licences.

Accredited.	...	...	...	-
Pasteurised.	...	...	...	-
Sterilized.	...	...	...	-
Tuberculin Tested.	...	...	...	-

Supplementary Licences.

Accredited.	...	...	...	1.
Pasteurised.	...	...	...	3.
Sterilized.	...	...	...	2.
Tuberculin Tested.	...	...	...	3.

MILK SAMPLING.

It was found impossible to devote any time to sampling of milk for bacteriological examination but by an arrangement with the County Sanitary Officer, 57 samples were taken for biological tests, with the following results.

Twenty-eight samples were also subjected to a bacteriological examination and five gave unsatisfactory results.

It was decided, however, that during the coming year these samples would be taken by your own staff.

No. taken.	Results of biological examination.		
	Satisfactory.	Evidence of living Tubercle Bacilli.	Evidence of Brucella Abortus.
57.	55.	Nil.	2.

Where samples revealed the presence of Brucella Abortus, individual animals in the herd were investigated and in each case, satisfactory arrangements were made for the exclusion of milk affected from the milk sold.

"Brucellosis" may affect man, and in this respect it has puzzling characteristics. In a mild form, it may give rise to only slight and vague symptoms, which can be debilitating for the patient, but not sufficiently acute for him to seek medical aid. Nevertheless, his efficiency and general health may be impaired.

Although Milk Production still remains the concern of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, once milk has left the farm premises distribution is under the supervision of the local authority. Far too much milk is still retailed loose from buckets and open vehicles which offer no protection from the sun.

Of the samples submitted to bacteriological examination, five gave unsatisfactory results. These samples were taken in the farm dairy and I venture to suggest that had samples been taken at the point of delivery to the household, the results would not have been so satisfactory.

ICE CREAM.

The catch-penny Ice Cream makers and the itinerant vendors are rapidly disappearing and the reputable manufacturers are now making an excellent product available to the consumer. How true this is of the circumstances in your area is difficult to say as no samples have been taken.

There are ten premises in the district registered for the sale and storage of ice cream and in each instance this is prepacked.

STAFF.

I am pleased to record that an Additional Sanitary Inspector is to be appointed early in 1954. It will then be possible to give greater attention to detail and many duties now neglected.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the Council for their support and backing. I appreciate too assistance freely given by all of the Council's officers and in particular the invaluable help rendered by Mrs. Allen.

I am,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

John W. Stephenson.

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.

